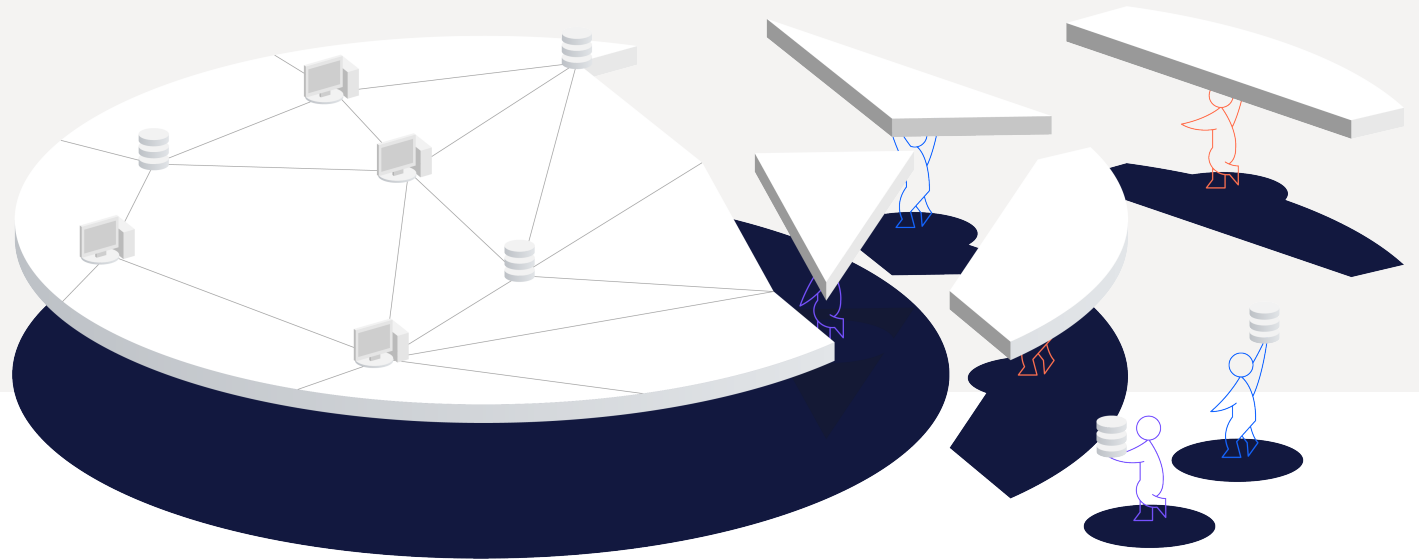# CYBERSECURITY MATURITY MODEL CERTIFICATION

Get your company ready for CMMC compliance with fast-track training.

SimSpace

This is the start of a new day in the Department of Defense where cybersecurity, as we've been saying for years, is foundational for acquisitions.

We're putting our money where our mouth is. We mean it.

Katie Arrington, CISO for the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment

Introducing Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC)

WHAT?

CMMC is a five-tier model released by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment (OUSD A&S) to standardize cybersecurity practices across the Defense enterprise.

WHY?

The goal of CMMC is to enhance the collective security of the Department of Defense (DoD) as well as any private sector organizations that conduct business for, with, or on behalf of the DoD.

WHO?

It doesn't matter if your company sells hamburger patties or designs next-generation fighter jets, CMMC compliance will be required for most companies that work on a DoD contract.

Trust, but verify.

Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification may sound like just one more cyber framework to manage, but there is one important difference — verification.

Existing government regulations for cybersecurity were largely driven by trust, but your **CMMC practices and processes must be verified through an assessment.**

- Some DoD contracts will require CMMC compliance as early as 2021, especially those dealing with Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI).

- There are a limited number of organizations licensed to help 300,000+ defense contractors and vendors prepare.

- Certification is not a one-time thing. Companies will be required to re-certify with CMMC-AB every three years.

The CMMC Accreditation Body (CMMC-AB)

Established in January 2020, the CMMC Accreditation Body (CMMC-AB) is responsible for certifying organizations and professionals against the new CMMC standards.

- Authorized as the "sole authoritative source" for operationalizing CMMC Assessments and Training

- Responsible for authorizing Third-Party Assessment Organizations, or C3PAOs, to conduct CMMC assessments

- Controls assessments at all maturity levels, from basic cyber hygiene — required of everyone — to advanced.

Summary? If an organization is licensed to participate in CMMC accreditation, certification, or training, then it is part of the CMMC-AB ecosystem. Learn more about it at **cmmcab.org**.

CMMC Maturity Levels

Advanced / Progressive
LEVEL 5
Organizations at this level implement standards and processes across the entire organization to protect CUI from Advanced Persistent Threats.

Proactive
LEVEL 4
These organizations review and measure cybersecurity practices to effectively protect Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI).

Good Cyber Hygiene
LEVEL 3
ML-3 organizations have a plan to protect Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) that may include mission, goals, resourcing, training, stakeholders, etc.

Intermediate Cyber Hygiene
LEVEL 2
Organizations at this level have established and documented cybersecurity practices as a step toward implementation.

Basic Cyber Hygiene
LEVEL 1
The first level of CMMC compliance is centered around the performance of basic information security practices.

CMMC Maturity Levels as of December 2020. CMMC-AB is expected to announce changes to these levels in 2021.

Understanding the Maturity Levels

The CMMC maturity levels are based on various best practices compiled from other, existing security frameworks. That means these practices aren't new — they're just now all being managed in one place and through one, unified framework.

The CMMC maturity level required for your organization will depend on what type of work — and what type of information — you're managing for the Department of Defense. The more sensitive your contract, the higher level of maturity required.

How do you get assessed for a particular level?

- Determine the right Maturity Level for your organization, based on your business goals and the CMMC requirements, and be sure you meet the requirements before getting assessed.

- Visit the CMMC-AB Marketplace to find and schedule an assessment with a C3PAO at or above the maturity level you require.

- A Certified Assessor will plan, conduct, and report back on your assessment and will oversee the remediation process, where appropriate, if any issues are discovered during their review.

The best practices unified through the new CMMC framework are organized into 17 broad domains, which are then split into 43 distinct capabilities, and then further split into 173 practices. *Phew!*

Preparing for the CMMC Assessment

The most efficient way to get prepared for a CMMC assessment is to have **Certified Professionals (CPs)** on your team.

To become a CP, individuals must complete training with a licensed partner and pass an exam that confirms they understand the requirements of CMMC for a DoD supplier.

While you can use an outside entity to help you prepare, there are benefits to bringing that knowledge in-house.

1

You can save on both the costs and the level of effort associated with CMMC preparation by certifying members of your team.

2

Your people know your network best. Your CPs can begin preparing for the CMMC assessment now without waiting for consultants to get up to speed.

3

In-house CPs will have the info you need to analyze and continually prepare your networks to pass CMMC assessments — now and when you have to re-certify.

Getting a CMMC CP Certification

The journey to become a CMMC CP starts with applying to the CMMC-AB. From there, you must complete a certified training course before taking the CMMC CP exam.

After passing the exam, prospective CMMC CPs sign a code of professional conduct. The CMMC-AB reviews an applicant's package, and if all prerequisites are complete, they certify the individual as a CMMC CP.

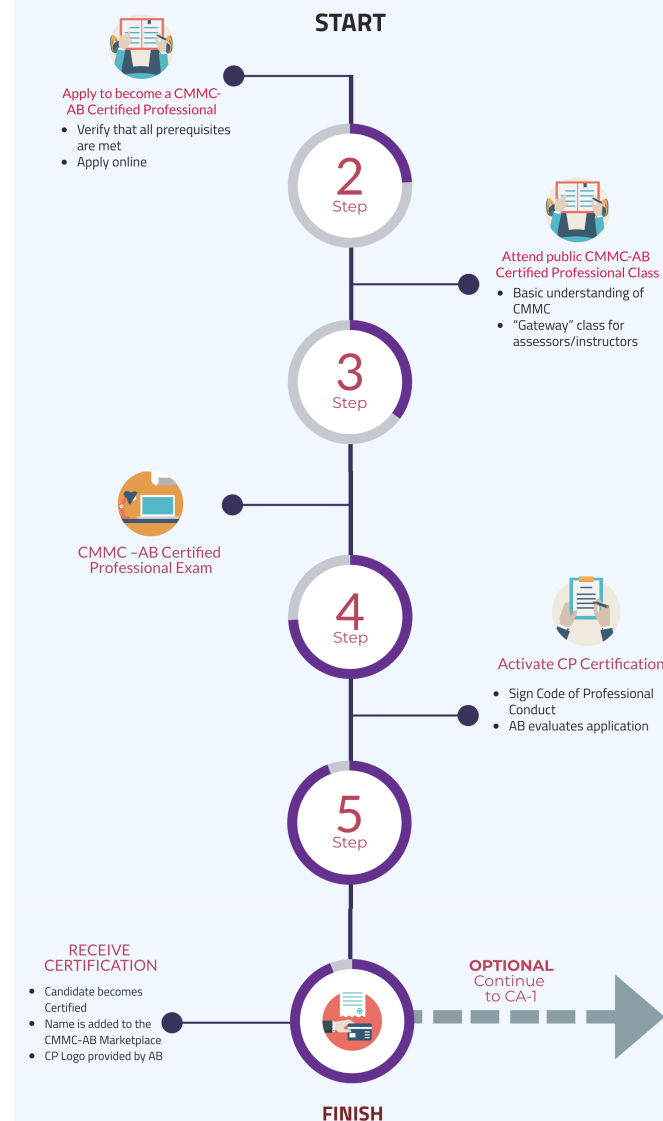## To become certified as a CP, you must:

- Have sufficient industry experience as demonstrated by:
  - College degree in a technical field or other equivalent experience (including military), and/or
  - 2+ years in cyber or other information technology field
- Complete CMMC-AB Certified Professional Class (CMMC model training) from a Licensed Training Provider (LTP)
- Pass the CMMC-AB Certified Professional Exam
- Sign the CMMC Code of Professional Conduct

Image courtesy of the CMMC Accreditation Body (CMMC-AB)

JOURNEY TO BECOME A
CMMC-AB Certified Professional

CYBER-KNOWLEDGE

The CMMC Certified Professional is a true resource to a consultancy providing CMMC preparation, a C3PAO providing certified assessor support, or an organization interested in having in-house CMMC trained resources.

START

Apply to become a CMMC-AB Certified Professional
- Verify that all prerequisites are met
- Apply online

2 Step

Attend public CMMC-AB Certified Professional Class
- Basic understanding of CMMC
- "Gateway" class for assessors/instructors

3 Step

CMMC –AB Certified Professional Exam

4 Step

Activate CP Certification
- Sign Code of Professional Conduct
- AB evaluates application

5 Step

RECEIVE CERTIFICATION
- Candidate becomes Certified
- Name is added to the CMMC-AB Marketplace
- CP Logo provided by AB

OPTIONAL Continue to CA-1

FINISH

Assessment team

Compliance officers

External consulting

IT and Security

Legal team

Management

Prospective assessors

Prospective instructors

Certified Professional is the gateway to Certified Assessor

CP status can serve as a standalone certification for individuals looking to enhance their organization's cybersecurity maturity or even those simply curious about CMMC and DoD cybersecurity requirements. But **getting certified as a CMMC Certified Professional is also the first step to becoming a CMMC Certified Assessor (CA).**

- CMMC Certified Assessors can be certified at Maturity Levels 1, 3, or 5 and can certify organizations at any level below or up to their highest certification.

- For example, to certify an organization at CMMC Maturity Level 2 (ML-2), a Certified Assessor needs to possess CMMC CA-3 or CMMC CA-5 certification.

- Certified Assessors associate with C3PAOs so that organizations in need of CMMC certification can find and hire them to conduct assessments or help them prepare.

- CAs will play a critical role in the CMMC ecosystem. You can learn more about becoming a Certified Assessor at **cmmcab.org/assessors-lp.**

Meeting the licensed training requirement

SimSpace offers a suite of **Certified Professional** and **Certified Assessor** training to help experienced cyber professionals understand and meet the new CMMC requirements for their organization. Our straightforward, engaging online courses let you go as far as you want on the CMMC journey — all within a single platform.

Certified Professional (CP)
$199

Get ready for the CP exam — and take the first step toward becoming a CMMC Certified Assessor — by learning the fundamentals of the CMMC framework and the required processes.

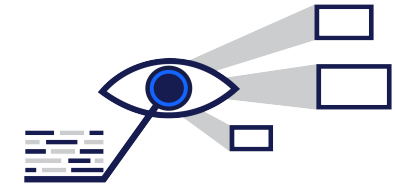### Certified Assessor (CA) - 1
$299

Learn how to plan, conduct, and report on CMMC assessments of organizations for Basic Cyber Hygiene (ML-1) as well as how to carry out the remediation process, where appropriate.

Certified Assessor (CA) - 3
$399

Be ready to assess organizations for Good Cyber Hygiene (ML-3) that are handling Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) and require a managed approach to cybersecurity.

Certified Assessor (CA) - 5
$799

Gain the most advanced training to conduct or supervise assessments up to the highest level of maturity (ML-5) for organizations with a forward-leaning approach to cybersecurity.

Start with someone who can take you all the way

Proven DOD Cyber Experience
We are a proven partner for the Department of Defense. In fact, the DoD hosts the largest cyber exercise in the world using our training platform.

### Plan to become a Certified Assessor?
SimSpace offers a tool that CMMC Certified Assessors can use to conduct assessments up to the highest level of maturity (CA-5).

Training Excellence Guaranteed
Our goal is your success. That's why we back our CMMC trainings with guarantees to give you confidence in your choice and your knowledge.

CMCC-AB Licensed Publishing Partner
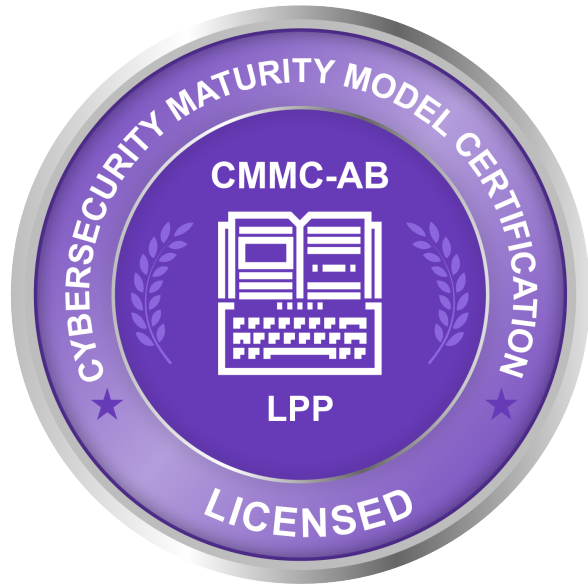
We are a Licensed Publishing Partner (LPP) for the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Accreditation Body (CMMC-AB). That means we are among only a handful of organizations that are authorized to create CMMC exam training.

The CMMC-AB Licensed Training Partners (LTPs) should be announced in early 2021. We plan to be on that list and will officially launch our online courses as soon as CMMC-AB gives approval.
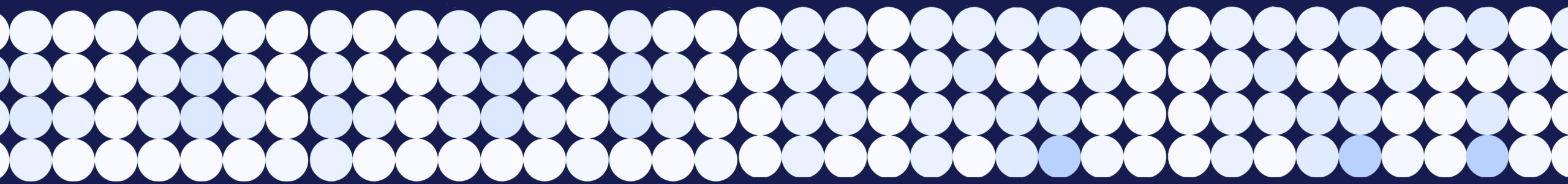
A tool for your cyber defense

CMMC accreditation is an important step toward cyber maturity, but it's not the end of the road. That's why we complement our suite of CMMC trainings with an integrated, customizable platform that lets you seamlessly model, test, and adapt your cyber posture — even as rules and requirements change.

We work with clients who operate in the most demanding cybersecurity environments. As a **preferred cyber training, testing, and assessment partner for the top five financial institutions and the DoD,** we are experts in helping organizations plan, practice, test, and refine their cybersecurity practices. Together, we can help you and the companies you assess move beyond a checklist to become cyber secure (and cyber mature) organizations.

Learn more at **simspace.com.**

SimSpace